

# Country Journal

*Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns*

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

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## HILLTOWNS

### Five towns study shared Fire Dept.

By Peter Spotts

Five hilltowns are partnering with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for a grant funded study to gauge the feasibility of a regional Fire Department between the communities.

Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield, and Worthington will all be participating in the study to examine how collaboration and service for the five communities can be improved. Chesterfield Town Administrator Sue Labrie said the study started with Goshen and Chesterfield looking for ways to expand their current mutual aid service and it snowballed into something more.

"This study brings it beyond that," Labrie said. "What we ask is is there a way...we can create a regional fire department with the existing volunteer fire departments as backup local fire departments."

One of the major benefits of a regional fire department would be having firefighters

**FIRE DEPT.**, page 2



Michele Kenney and Kim Kelleher take advantage of the blanketing snowfall last week to enjoy Maple Corner Farm in Granville on cross-country skis.

*Submitted photos*



Karen McTaggart enjoys the sun and snow while cross country skiing in Montgomery.

## WILLIAMSBURG

### Committee recommends removing Helen E. James School



The Helen E. James School is the focal point of any potential Public Safety Complex proposal in town. Residents will be able to vote on three potential options on April 3.

*Photo courtesy of the OPM Steering Committee*

By Peter Spotts

The Owner's Project Manager Committee has spent the past year looking for a scenario where the Helen E. James stays standing on Route 9, but is now making the difficult recommendation to remove the building and construct a new public safety complex in its place.

The decision comes after evaluating three options — two of which involved renovating and keeping the school building for part of the project — but the committee was faced with the harsh realities of budget

constraints when the price threshold crossed \$6 million and \$7 million.

"What we found there was there's over \$2 million dollars' worth of work that needs to be done in that building before it can be used for any purpose," OPMSC Chairman Jim Ayres said. "We know that the building means a lot to many people in town. Our hope was to be able to find a way where we wouldn't have to go that route. The biggest challenge is there's so much deferred maintenance...that in order to use that in any

**SCHOOL**, page 12

## HAMPSHIRE

### School working on course failure rates

By Peter Spotts

Student failure rates are still a concern for Hampshire Regional Middle and High School administrators after less than one-third of the recovery attempts for Quarter 1 failing grades were completed to bump the student up to a passing mark.

Principal Kristin Smidy informed the Hampshire Regional School Committee on Feb. 1 that teachers assigned no work over the holiday break to allow failing students the opportunity to turn the failing mark into a grade of 60 with credit recovery.

**FAILURE**, page 12

## GOSHEN

### ATM, election dates may move

By Shelby Macri

The Selectboard discussed a variety of issues at the end January, including moving Annual Town Meeting and other important town events to later this year for COVID-19 precautions.

The board discussed the upcoming calendar for annual town events like the caucus, election, and Annual Town Meeting. The events were held later in the year than usual last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the town is thinking of moving the dates to a later

**DATES**, page 9

## BECKET

### Selectboard talks broadband project

By Shelby Macri

The Selectboard members discussed different policies regarding the broadband project, including drop costs and how to handle those who re-sign up last Wednesday, Feb. 3.

The policies added were approved by the board, so there is now a sign-up disclaimer, guidelines for construction, and a policy on the subsidy of the network. These changes are mainly typographical.

**BROADBAND**, page 6



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## HILLTOWNS

### TREAD TIME



Maple Corner Farm in Granville was equipped for the deluge of snow falling across the hills over the past week.

*Submitted photo*

## Hilltown Food Bucks helps with local food

Hilltown Community Development has partnered with local retailers and farm stands to set up Hilltown Food Bucks, a local effort to help Hilltown residents stretch their food dollars while supporting our critical local food businesses in a difficult time of social and economic stress. 170 households have participated in the program to date, receiving upwards of \$50,000 coupons to spend at local farm stands and grocery stores since July 2020.

"This is a win-win for our community," said Kate Bavelock, director of Community Programs at Hilltown CDC. "We know that keeping our dollars in the community is essential for the survival of our small farms and businesses, but staying closer to home also keeps us all safer. We are fortunate to have had a low incidence of COVID transmission in the Hilltowns, and making locally grown and available food more affordable allows us to protect each other while keeping good food on our families' tables."

Eligible participants can receive between \$100 to

\$125 food coupons per month for five months to be used at participating local stores and farms on non-taxable food items. The coupons double spending power when making a purchase, so a shopping basket worth \$80 can be paid for with \$40 of coupons and \$40 of your own money.

To be eligible, you must live in one of the towns served through the HCDC Community Block Grant — Ashfield, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Plainfield, Williamsburg and Worthington. Residents who are age 62 years or older, have a child enrolled in Free and Reduced School Meals, are a resident of low-income housing, or are eligible for LIHEAP are highly encouraged to apply.

Program funding is limited and will expire in May 2021. If someone is interested in participating, please complete the one-page application available at [hilltowncdc.org/foodbucks](http://hilltowncdc.org/foodbucks). For questions on the Hilltown Food Bucks program, please contact Bavelock at [kateb@hilltowncdc.org](mailto:kateb@hilltowncdc.org) or 413-296-4536 x 116.

## Hilltown students named to Holyoke Community College Dean's List

The following students were named to the Dean's List at Holyoke Community College for the Fall 2020 semester. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their GPA is 3.2 or higher.

Cynthia McCreedy from Becket; Sierra Autumn, from Blandford; Damion Gage Henrichon, Erika Lenore Wolfe, and Rebecca Wolfe from Chester;

Michelle Arlene Jasinski from Chesterfield; Henry Pelham Box from Cummington; Willow Jane Caputo from Goshen; Oliver Patrick Fawell, Kala Cielo Garrido, Graham J. Pilger, and Alexandra Michelle Pinschmidt from Haydenville; Morgan Lobrose from Plainfield; Jordan Yvette Chapman, Jordan Paige Cooper, Sophia Mary Dubour, Brynja Oddrun

Miltimore, and Jodie Jon Paradis from Russell; Emma Ruth Barnes, Cy Lucien Francis, Mason Lyon Lollis-Taylor, and Lauren Ashley Wilcox from Westhampton; Riley A. Lacapruicia, Marissa Sajan Nye, Oliver Carlton Roberts from Williamsburg; Melissa Ann Eddy and Leah E. LaBarre from Worthington.

## Vaccine sites set up in Amherst, Northampton

The local health departments of Hampshire County are pleased to share information about COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Hampshire County.

For years, the county been working together to establish plans for public health emergencies including mass dispensing. Strong partnerships, annual exercises, and robust stockpile of supplies have proved to be extremely useful in current response efforts. Recently, local first responders including police, fire, EMS, and dispatchers throughout Hampshire County were vaccinated. An effective clinic model to vaccinate members of the community safely and efficiently has been established.

Although health departments would like to offer as many different locations as possible, the COVID-19 vaccine storage, handling, administration and reporting requirements are significantly more complex than a traditional flu vaccine clinic. As a result, all vaccination sites will serve multiple communities from a region and must meet very specific requirements in order to receive vaccine. At this time, Hampshire County has two regional COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Hampshire County —The Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst and The Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton.

The Department of Public Health has developed a

vaccine distribution timeline and it can be found at [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov). Both Amherst and Northampton sites have committed to provide vaccine distribution throughout all phases of the Commonwealth's roll-out plan. Individuals who are eligible to receive the vaccine will be able to register via a link on the city websites [www.amherstcovid19.org](http://www.amherstcovid19.org) or [www.northamptonma.gov/vaccineclinics](http://www.northamptonma.gov/vaccineclinics).

Additional clinics will be scheduled during the coming weeks based upon weekly federal and state allotments and will follow the phased guidelines as defined by The Department of Public Health. Eligible individuals can register online for an appointment. A second dose of the Moderna vaccine will be offered on or after 28 days later to anyone who receives their first dose at the clinics. If individuals need assistance with online registration, please call 413-587-1219 for Northampton or 413-259-2425 for Amherst and leave a detailed message. A health department representative will get respond within two business days.

Please note that the vaccine is free to individuals and is being provided to the states by the federal government. Sites can bill for a small administration fee to cover the cost of running clinic and insurance information will be requested. However, no person will be turned away due to lack of insurance.

## FIRE DEPT

around during the work week to respond to calls, when the volunteer department members are typically out of town at work.

"The big issue here is all the departments are volunteer and these days almost all volunteers aren't in the town during the day, they're working," said Worthington Selectman Charley Rose. "In our case in Worthington, there's very few volunteers period. We're down to five people."

"That way you've got a truck that's going to get out the station quickly. Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., people are out of town working," Labrie said. "You get a structure fire at noon time of a Wednesday, how many firefighters do you have in town?"

The study is funded by a Direct Local Technical Assistance grant administered by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. DLTA grants cover two broad areas, one of which is assisting in municipal partnerships and regional collaboration. The grant currently has \$30,000 allocated for PVPC to work with Municipal Resources, Inc., the consultant for the project.

David Houghton is the project manager. He has served on the Wayland Massachusetts Fire Department for 38 years and is a nationally certified firefighter, fire instructor, fire inspector, EMT, and fire officer.

The towns are in the process of applying for a second of DLTA funds for potential next steps based on the results of the study.

"What we don't want to have happen is to have this great study done and have nothing happen after that," PVPC Manager of Regional and Municipal Programs Eric Weiss said. "I know it's a big project, a big idea, but it's a good idea. Hopefully, it will all come to fruition someday, but there's a long way between here and there."

The consultant is tasked with reviewing and evaluat-

*from page 1*

ing existing equipment, personnel, and facilities already utilized by the communities; evaluate existing regional cooperation; interview existing emergency services in each community; and perform regional outreach and provide informational forums to discuss with residents, local officials, and local personnel their concerns and potential opportunities associated with the regionalization of emergency services. Weiss recently helped worked on the study which led to the eventual partnership between Blandford and Chester for a shared Police Department.

"The financial burden on these hilltowns is incredible, especially now with covid," Weiss said. "Anything we can do to help we're trying to do."

The consultant's work must be completed by April 1. The next steps following the study will depend on the results. It may be feasible for a couple communities to partner together, but not all five as a centralized location may be too far away from some communities.

"It's a long-term study. It's not going to be anything you'll see in the next two three years," Labrie said.

"Hopefully, this ends up with, and who knows how far down the road this would be, that maybe there would be a central location with paid employees to be on call serving all five communities," Rose added. "I think the point is to get better coverage for everybody, so everybody is safer."

Worthington residents, particularly current and former fire department members, are encouraged to provide input by contacting 413-238-5577, ext. 100 or [selectboard@worthingtonma.us](mailto:selectboard@worthingtonma.us).

For more information, residents should visit their respective town websites — [townofchesterfieldma.com](http://townofchesterfieldma.com), [Cummington-ma.gov](http://Cummington-ma.gov), [Goshen-ma.us](http://Goshen-ma.us), [Plainfield-ma.us](http://Plainfield-ma.us), or [Worthington-ma.us](http://Worthington-ma.us).

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# HUNTINGTON

## Virtual program survey sent to senior residents

HUNTINGTON — The Council on Aging has sent out a virtual program survey to all Huntington senior residents. The COA is making plans to support seniors during these extended quarantine times.

Seniors are asked to check off the activities they are interested in and to provide their contact information.

Proposed activities include tablet loans, traveling musician visits, craft bags, art classes, puzzle swap, Zoom board games, and exercise programs.

Everyone who returns a survey will be entered into a drawing for a Moltenbrey's Market gift certificate.

For more information, please call the COA at 413-512-5205.

## St. Patrick's luncheon curbside pick-up available on March 20

HUNTINGTON — The Council on Aging will be sponsoring a St. Patrick's Curbside Pickup Corned Beef and Cabbage Luncheon on Saturday, March 20. Meals will be available for curbside pickup at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road, Huntington from noon to 1 p.m. at 15-minute intervals.

Participants are asked to remain in their vehicles wearing a face mask. One of the COA's friendly volunteers will greet them and bring out their

meals. All ages are welcome. The suggested donation is \$5 per meal.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling 413-512-5200 by Saturday, March 6. Reservations are limited to 100. In the event of snow, the luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 27. The event is subject to cancellation due to any updated state COVID-19 restrictions. If cancelled, then participants will be called in advance.



## Academic honors for local student

HUNTINGTON — John Daley was named to the Dean's List for academic excellence in the Fall 2020 semester at Springfield College. Daley is a criminal justice major.

To qualify for Dean's List, a student must have completed a minimum

of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades; the student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term; the student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.5 for the term.

## Jack and his guitar to perform Valentine's Day weekend

HUNTINGTON — A collaboration between the Huntington Council on Aging and The Huntington Community Events Committee is bringing live acoustic music to local restaurants.

Jack Yourous will provide soothing sounds to dine by on Friday, Feb. 12, at The Rapids Bar & Grill from 6 to 8 p.m. and again for Sunday brunch on Sunday, Feb. 14, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Comfort Kitchen & Bar. Reservations are highly recommended due to limited seating. Those who call and make reservations will be entered to win a "sweetheart basket" comprised of wine, chocolates, and a gift certificate.



Jack Yourous will perform at The Rapids Bar & Grill on Friday, Feb. 12, and Comfort Kitchen & Bar on Sunday, Feb. 14.

Courtesy photo

## NORWICH HILL

The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

Our reading for the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, Mark 9:2-9, invites us to wonder about experiences that transform us and beckon us to see differently, while asking us what it may mean for us to live a transfigured life.

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, Feb. 17. We will be hosting a drive-by for receiving ashes and blessings in front of the church from 4 to 5 p.m. Please remember to wear a mask and stay in your cars. Ashes may be received on the

forehead or back of your hand. A fresh long handle cotton swab will be used for each individual application. Zoom Ash Wednesday Service will be at 7 p.m.

The pastor is always available to speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at "Norwich Hill" for updates, information, and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com.

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## OPINION

### EDITORIAL

# Combatting cabin fever inside and out

Winters in New England can seem very long in the best of years, but this past fall and now as we find ourselves deep into winter this February, it may seem even longer than normal as COVID-19 remains with us after almost a year.

Punxsutawney Phil, the ever-popular, Pennsylvania groundhog removed from his burrow each year to prognosticate about how many more weeks of winter we'll see before spring makes its anxiously awaited appearance, made his annual visit above ground on Feb. 2. Unfortunately, he saw his shadow and determined there will be six weeks more of winter.

Luckily, Massachusetts' "famous" groundhog, Ms. G, the official state groundhog of our state also made her annual appearance on Feb. 2. She did not see her shadow and so predicted an early spring. How early we don't yet know. She lives at the Massachusetts Audubon education center, Drumlin Farm, in Lincoln.

It remains to be seen if either forecast is accurate. In the Holyoke area, at least, skunks are already on the move again, a sure sign spring is headed our way. Of course, the Paper City is usually a little warmer than many other Western Mass locations, so who knows?

Whether Phil's or Mrs. G's forecasting proves true, we are all getting at least a touch of cabin fever, and there's certainly stronger feelings of restlessness and boredom running through us all and our friends and family.

So, what to do? Considering our very recent snow, one can choose to educate oneself and go hiking, but if you're new to the activity make sure you learn about the right clothing to wear based on temperatures and planned activities.

If you haven't investigated doing so before cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are possible now that we have plenty of the white stuff.

And if you've never tried ice fishing and you're willing to take a ride, you can head to Russell, where the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures' ice fishing staff, with Craig Mannix, will be on hand to help you. With over 30 years of ice fishing experience, Mannix and his team will be available to show even the most novice fisherman how to catch the big ones under the ice.

It's also possible to try blacksmithing with the help of a Forged in Fire contestant as well as snowshoeing and/or mountain biking, although COVID-19 safety restrictions require all to bring their own bike helmets. There will also be orienteering, escape challenges and scavenger hunt bingo as well as other activities. The events go on from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and it's \$10 a piece for everyone regardless of age.

But if the cold weather, snow and ice isn't your or your family's thing, there are plenty of indoor activities on Zoom or other video conferencing applications.

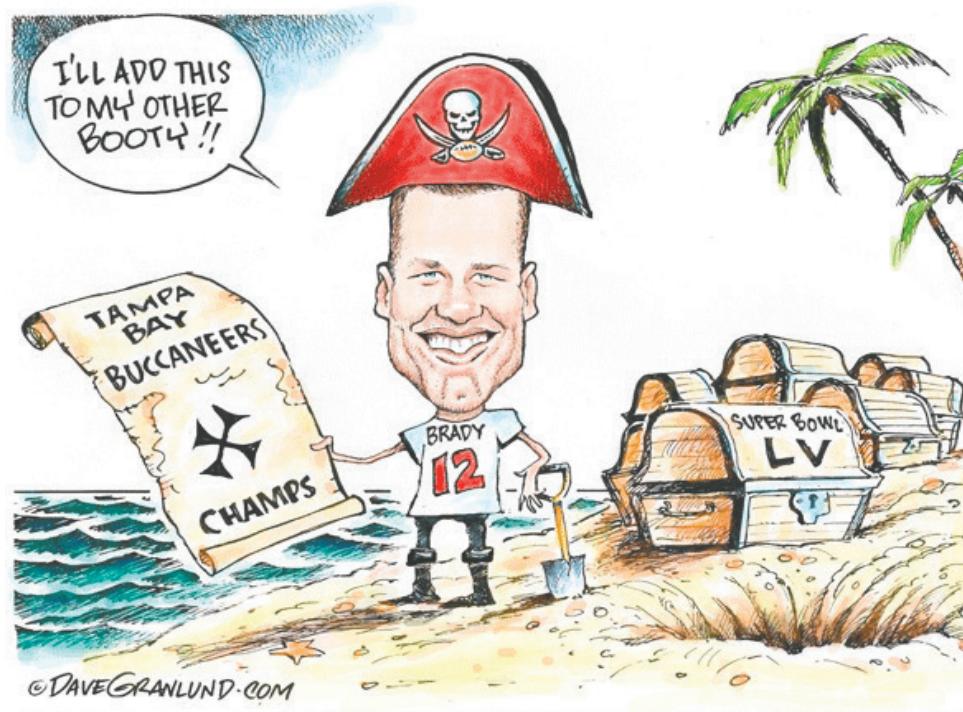
Area groups and libraries have worked hard to keep us all entertained – and with

**CABIN FEVER**, page 5

## Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com), or call us at 413-283-8393.

Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A societal shift of history and economy

Have you felt the change in the social and political winds and the unsettling stir among the people? Life is changing dramatically, but your paper continues to measure its success by advertisers, sales and subscribers; all of it, predicated upon the history of the paper and the wants and whims of the people. You don't realize it yet, and neither does your readers, how people in the near future are going to buy and sell. It will be much different than what you or I are accustomed. How they value something will change dramatically, whether relatives, friends or work — even how they view a good or bad day. What is changing is the view that all things continue as they should, and that we build upon the past civilizations, guided by morality and ethics.

Metaphorically, a rubicon is the crossing of a boundary that represents a war-like act. Remember these words: eisegeisis and nihilism, because around 40% of the American public and a growing world populous believe in those two basic principles for life. Eisegesis in its simplest generic form means to interpret life from one source: meaning one's self. Believers in this creed need no outside instruction nor any moral or ethical steering. Nihilism is the idea that values of the present world are not important and provide no foundation from which to be considered objective truth. Therefore,

ignore or destroy present and past associations, objects, and institutions.

People think that what they are seeing is communism or out of control socialism, but even these two socio-economic systems rely on the past to build societies, art, culture, and science. The new agenda that you are viewing is about rejecting everything and anything associated with the past. Individualism, freedom, work satisfaction, privilege, religion, friendships, and family will be discarded. Don't believe it, have a discussion with gamers, high-school or university students involved with changing the world. Ask them if there is anything in our past that was good?

What will they build? They don't know, but they believe it will be better than anything that has existed before. They believe that in order to build a totally new society, the old must go — including its underpinning motifs. God, family and cultural structures, law and morality will all be discarded, because the only thing that matters is one's happiness. Hedonism will be the dominant idea and your newspaper — dear editor — will not meet the expectation of this generation, because one must buy it and your enterprise engages in journalism for profit, which are the general underpinnings of the past.

**Frank J. Verderber**  
Russell

## New opportunities for affordable housing

The old saying "when one door closes, another opens" is worth polishing off and bringing up to date as an appropriate metaphor to describe an exciting new possibility arising out of the movement of shifting work from the office to the home.

Recently a major national employer headquartered in eastern Massachusetts named Raytheon reported to its investors that it expects to reduce its "office footprint" by 25% in the next several years. Toby O'Brien, Raytheon's CFO said that

in 2021 alone the company "expects to reduce the office footprint by 1.6 million square feet." Other employers are sure to follow.

Here lies an incredible potential to increase the stock of affordable housing in Massachusetts where it's needed most by repurposing these buildings. It can be a "new door opening" for many if planned with foresight and care.

**Jane Pinsley**  
Blandford

## Media doesn't tell the whole story

*This letter is in response to "We, not fake news, caused hate, violence," The Country Journal, Feb. 4.*

I do agree with some of what you have said, Jason. You do realize that any form of censorship is illegal and is fake news. You do know that the "Fairness Doctrine" is one of those laws that do not mean anything to Congress or the Media. Just like illegal entry into the United States is illegal, they just don't care. Case in point, they do as they please. The Coronaviruses, the media reports the number of tests that are positive, the number that have been hospitalized, and the number that have died. They do not tell the number of those that tested positive and are not sick, or show no systems. Another case is the border; the President wants to

open the border in the height of a world pandemic. Is this a wise choice? I think not. We are not hearing about this from the Media. The news anchors do not pick their own news cast, it is handed down from the top.

Freedom of speech is part of the first amendment, that you have a right to be heard. It does not mean anyone has to listen to you. In a debate the best way to win is to put your opponent on the defensive. The best way is to call them a liar. Congress on both sides of the aisle never wanted to debate with President Trump.

Recently, we had a demonstration at the Huntington store. It was about free speech.

**MEDIA**, page 5

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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# OPINION

## HILLTOWN HISTORY

### Wish You Were Here

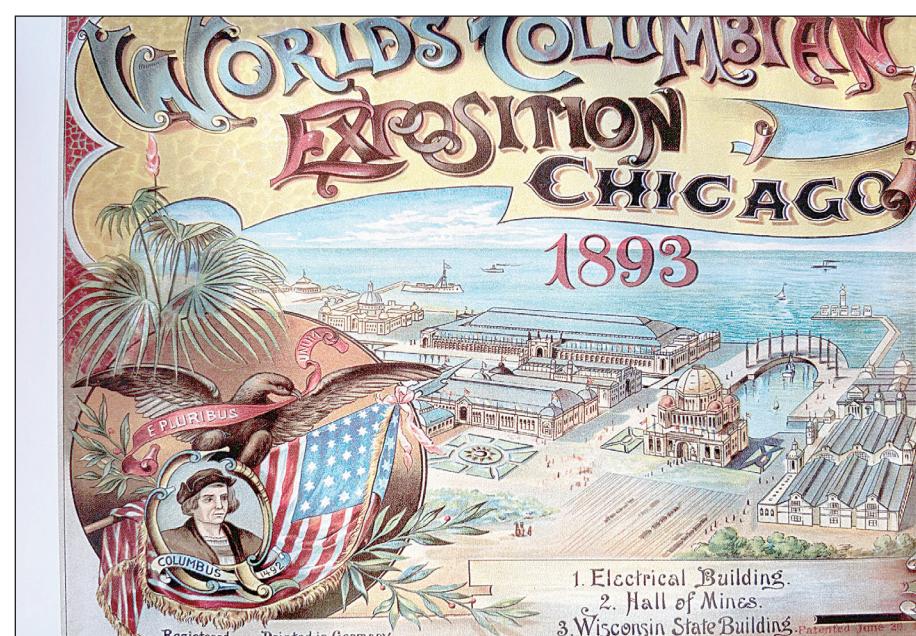
By Deborah Daniels

**A** Valentine sentiment appropriate for February, even if most of us are getting too much of each other a-la-covid-cabin fever. You still have time to send a Valentine postcard. Nothing says I thought of you better than receiving a postcard!

Ready for some postcard history? Most of us can't imagine how ubiquitous postcards were in history. When the Morgan Envelope Factory in Springfield, MA. rolled out the first penny postcard in America on May 12, 1873, within two-and-a-half hours more than 200,000 of them were sold. These were not the picture postcards you are used to; these were plain postcards with a preprinted 1 cent stamp on it. It was the only postcard issued by the US Postal Service. The front was for the address, the back was for your message. They were a hit because all other postcards were privately printed meaning you had to purchase a postcard and then pay 2 cents to mail it. To be precise, J.P. Charlton of Philadelphia had copyrighted the first postcard in America in 1861. The Civil War pushed production aside and by 1870, H.L. Lipman had bought Charlton's postcard idea and issued his own privately printed Lipman's Postal Cards. Incidentally, Lipman also invented the pencil with the attached eraser. Many early postcards were written in pencil because most people had a pencil, quill pens were more expensive, and the fountain pen didn't come along until 1884. Americans fell in love with the notion of mailing messages to each other on postcards. First there were the bare bones blank (no image) postcards and gradually images were put on the front of the postcard with very little space for a message if any. One whole side of the postcard was always devoted to the address. People wanted both an image and a space for a message to express themselves. They got both in the modern-day postcards. Seems like we are reversing this order today, going from e-mail, to text, to emoji!

Collectors of postcards, or deltiologists have studied old postcards and organized their history into periods based on how they were printed. So, picture postcards had an image on front and an undivided back which was exclusively for the address were the earliest "pioneer postcards" dating from 1900 to 1907. Then the divided back period was 1907 to 1915, when there was space for a message on half of the back of the postcard and the other half was for the address and a full picture on the front. The rage was on to collect postcards and display them in an album in your parlor. They became the greatest collectible hobby in the world by 1908. Postcard Clubs were exchanging postcards with other clubs all over the world.

Souvenir postcards became very prized and collected starting in the late 1890s. The Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 made it a business to print up postcards of its exhibits. This was



A reproduction of an 1893 World's Exposition in Chicago postcard.

Submitted photos by Deborah Daniels



Two collages of postcards with various themes that are self-explanatory from Deborah Daniels' postcard collection.

a once-in-a-lifetime chance for Americans to discover the world beyond the United States. It took 3 years of intense preparation with 46 world nations participating in this showcase. It cost \$28 million to build all the exhibition halls, statues, fountains, and the world's first Ferris Wheel. It drew 26 million visitors and postcards were sought after souvenirs. Imagine those buttoned up Chicagoans witnessing a belly dancer from Egypt in an exhibit entitled, "A Street in Cairo." The postcard of "Little Egypt" was a bestseller.

German printers dominated the postcard industry until the first world war. They had the best ink dyes and were the masters of printing techniques. The postcard expression "Greetings From" over a vacation scene originated in Austria in the late 1800s. Curt Teich and Company of Chicago became the world's largest printer of view and advertising postcards in 1908. He is best known for his postcards borrowing this idea, with large letters saying, Greetings From a state or location with pictures that illustrate the state's noteworthy features.

Some postcard scenes were hand painted or tinted usually by women in an assembly line manner. This fell out of

favor because licking the paint brush to a fine point, as the women did, exposed them to lead paint, a known toxic substance. Photography was used to create postcard images. The earliest ones were black and white. Eastman Kodak made a folding camera in 1906 that created a negative that could be printed onto postcard stock paper without cropping it. E.I. Dail, a Michigan salesman, invented the metal revolving postcard rack in 1908, that became so effective at displaying postcards in every tourist area in America.

Back to postcard eras, the white border period was 1915 to 1930. The white border saved on ink and trimming costs in making large volumes of postcards. They were made on large sheets, with multiple postcards that required careful cutting out the individual cards. The borders gave them a margin for error. Postcards would have scenes of landscapes, portraits, exhibitions, and current events very soon after the event took place. They were miniature pictorial recordings of history. During this time the mail was picked up three to 12 times per day depending on your location. It was common to have two deliveries of mail each day. Look at an old postcard and notice the time of delivery stamped



Vintage backs of postcards showing a preprinted stamped postcard in color, a captioned postcard, a divided back postcard, ornate trademarked postcard and an undivided back postcard dated 1906.

1872	1 cent
1917	2 cents
1919	1 cent *
1952	2 cents
1958 (August 1)	3 cents
1963 (January 7)	4 cents
1968 (January 7)	5 cents
1971 (May 16)	6 cents
1974 (March 2)	8 cents
1975 (September 14)	7 cents **
1975 (December 31)	9 cents
1978 (May 29)	10 cents
1981 (March 22)	12 cents
1985 (February 17)	14 cents
1988 (April 3)	15 cents
1991 (February 3)	19 cents
1995 (January 1)	20 cents

A postage stamp dating chart for postcards records the price changes over the years.

Online graphic

on the cancellation as well as the date. The mail moved in those days.

The linen period, 1930 to 1945, was when postcards were made with a higher rag content, that gave them a linen like quality that was useful in capturing dyes and displaying the inks more vividly. During this time captions that described and explained the image on the postcard became common. Photochrome is the postcard style used from 1945 till today. The high color and bright images are not a photo. These cards were popularized by the Union Oil Company who stocked their western gas stations with racks of postcards starting in 1939. No road trip was complete without a postcard souvenir.

Looking to date an old postcard? There are many ways to do it. One easy way is to note the stamp value. Postcards cost 1 to 2 cents to mail in the USA from 1872 to Aug. 1, 1958. There are charts publishing the later years as postal costs went up. They are still the best deal in mail, 36 cents to send a message of love that the recipient can hold close to her heart! And who doesn't love hearing from a secret admirer? Send one. Happy Valentine's Day.

Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you'd like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.

## MEDIA

from page 4

The media interviewed the protesters because they the protesters were calling it hateful, because they used what everyone was calling the China coronavirus in their ad to the change in their conditions of business practice. The media get it mixed up. When we tried to correct it, the media left. The protesters said their piece, no debate, did not want to hear anything, but their own position, and were gone. The press did not get the whole story right on that one. I know because I was there.

Freedom of speech is the question here and speaking out is freedom of

speech. I would like to quote a Lutheran Pastor, Martin Numolber, who spent six years in a Nazi concentration camp.

"At first, they came for the communists, and I did not speak out, for I was not a communist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I did not speak out, for I was not a Catholic. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out, for I was not a Jew. Then they came for me, and there was no one to speak for me."

This is a very scary thought. It seems more real today.

Ted Cousineau  
Blandford

## CABIN FEVER

the ubiquity of Zoom, it's possible to enjoy programs you might not have considered participating in before from the comfort of your own living room.

Dreaming of gardening in the spring? The East Quabbin Land Trust will host a book discussion on Feb. 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., on "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conversation That Starts in Your Yard," by Douglas Tallamy, a professor of entomology at the University of Delaware. He is also the author of "Bringing Nature Home." He will discuss how homeowners can turn their

yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats.

It's free and people should email Jess Cusworth at the trust at Jcusworth@eqlt.org if they are interested, and she will send you the Zoom link.

The trust, the Trustees of the Reservation and Massachusetts Audubon all have outdoor and indoor activities, and libraries across the state have all kinds of online programs to enjoy, so take a walk through the World Wide Web and see what you can find to distract yourself until spring.

from page 4

## BLANDFORD

# Caucus scheduled for March 1

BLANDFORD — Town Caucus is Monday, March 1 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Positions open for nomination are: Board of Assessors for three years, Board of Health for three years, Select Board member for three years, Cemetery Commissioner for three years, Library Trustee for three years, Moderator for three years, Municipal Light Plant Board for three years, Planning Board for five years, School Committee for three years, Tree Warden for three years and Water Commissioner for three years.

## Academic honors for local student

BLANDFORD — Alexis Cooper was named to the Dean's List for academic excellence in the Fall 2020 semester at Springfield College. Cooper is an exploratory studies major.

To qualify for Dean's List, a student must have completed a minimum of 12

Incumbents seeking re-election include Brett Hartley for Board of Health, Stephen Jemiolo for Cemetery Commissioner, Mary Kronholm for Library Trustee, David Hopson for Moderator, Kim Bergland for Municipal Light Board, and Mark Boomsma for Tree Warden.

Eric McVey has announced he will not seek re-election to the Select Board, but might be interested in running for the spot on the Board of Assessors.

Michele Crane will not seek re-election for the School Committee, but says there may be someone interested.

credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades; the student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term; the student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.5 for the term.

## Vaccine station expected by end of month

BLANDFORD — The Board of Health is planning a vaccine station for residents and it is expected to be up and running towards the end of February.

There is a lengthy approval process the BOH has had to go through and, to date, the process has gone smoothly and the vaccine station is well on its way.

The BOH vaccine station will be on Tuesdays and Saturdays. As the date becomes more certain, the BOH will notify residents on how to sign up.

The easiest way to schedule a vaccine appointment or check availability is to use the online system at mass.gov/covidvaccine. At this time, Blandford is not listed as a vaccine site but will be on this list toward the end of February.

Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line for residents 75 and older who do not use or have internet access issues, please call 2-1-1 and follow prompts to reach The Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The resource line is available in English and Spanish and will have translators available. Individuals ages 75 and older will be able to speak to

a representative live on the phone to assist them with an appointment. If no appointments are available, callers will have the option to be placed on a call back list for the Massachusetts vaccination sites.

The vaccination site and the list will be called on a first come first served basis.

The Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line is for scheduling appointments only and representatives are not able to answer general questions about COVID-19 or provide individual health care advice.

In the meantime, the BOH reminds everyone that the town is under Phase III, Step 1, and as such, there is a return to 40 per cent capacity for businesses, there can only be five people in a building per 1000 square feet, patrons can only be in a restaurant for 90 minutes, 9:30 p.m. closings are no longer in effect and indoor gatherings remain at 10 and outdoor gatherings remain at 25.

As always, please feel to reach out to the BOH with any questions or concerns at boh@townofblandford.com or call 413-848-4279 ext. 401. To ensure a call back, please use the extension.

## BROADBAND

Town Administrator William Caldwell said the Municipal Light Plant and the Selectboard are merely putting the current practices into writing.

Additionally, the board spoke about keeping in contact with those in town who have new businesses or homes, to let them know to sign-up now to minimize their cost and save money later on. The board also discussed a policy on dropping the service, where people can drop the service, but it will account closure will be suspended for 120 days. Those who close their account can sign up for the service again, but they will need to wait one year, and it will cost \$99, as an

effort to discourage multiple suspensions.

The board discussed paying extra money to set up network extensions in areas where there aren't currently sign-ups; it'll be more expensive to set up the connections later. Currently, there's been no decision made on the issue, as they are waiting for town counsel input before deciding how to proceed. The board also discussed how to properly sign up for the broadband service as some people think they're signed up when they're not.

"Several years ago, when we were moving forward, people paid \$49 to Wire West. That money has been sitting there in their account. Now that we are actually

## CHESTER

### SNOW ON THE WATER



Last week's snowfall brought an artistic covering to Walker Brook in Chester on its journey along Route 20.

Photos by Shelby Macri

## Contest open to name library bear

CHESTER — Hamilton Memorial Library Director Angelique Toroni announced last week that the library is having a contest to "name our new mascot."

The new mascot is a gigantic Teddy Bear.

People can put their suggestion for a name, or vote for a favorite name on the Hamilton Memorial Library's Facebook page or, according to Toroni, "anyone can call the library and leave a message stating their favorite name."

"We are having great responses," she added. "There are so many different name suggestions."

Toroni will select the top five names from which folks can choose. He final five options will be available for a public vote from Sunday, Feb. 14, through Sunday, Feb. 28.

Toroni will announce the official winning name for the Teddy Bear on Monday, March 1.

"I wanted to do something to bring the community together, and have a little fun," said Toroni.



The new Hamilton Memorial Library mascot bear and Michelle Dilley, who donated Bear.

Submitted photo

The Name the Mascot event coincides with this month's community read regarding kindness.

Members of the community read a children's book regarding kindness to others. At the end of the story, the reader talks about the importance of helping one another and kindness. The readings are posted every day on Facebook.

## COVID-19 vaccinations available for seniors, information available online

CHESTER — Town residents 75 and older are now eligible to register for COVID-19 vaccinations in Northampton. In addition, Chester residents 65 and older with two or more co-morbidities

are able to get on the wait list.

For more information, visit [www.northamptonma.gov/2219/COVID-19-Vaccination-Clinics](http://www.northamptonma.gov/2219/COVID-19-Vaccination-Clinics) or [townofchester.net](http://townofchester.net).

## BECKET

from page 1

## BROADBAND

in construction they need to sign up for service," Caldwell said. "If they have paid \$49, that will be credited to them. They still need to sign up through Becket Whip City Fiber."

Caldwell said the town is building a fiber network and the operator is Whip City Fiber, though the town is using Wired West to provide services like management, marketing, and accounting.

There are 10 Fiber Service Areas being constructed around town, due to Becket's size. FSA 2 — which is made up of the northwest section of town — is nearing completion and it was selected as a starting point as it has limited cell ser-

vice, no DSL, poor satellite connection, and high interest in a survey by the town. The current expected construction schedule has the network completed in about 18 months.

For more information about the broadband project or the FSAs, visit [becketbroadband.org](http://becketbroadband.org).

The town also confirmed receipt of the Complete Streets Tier 2 project, as the town was awarded \$38,000 for the prioritization plan. Caldwell said they're working with an engineer to put a plan together. The projects have yet to be determined.

## MIDDLEFIELD

### MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a

message at 413-623-9990 the Monday before. Pick-up and delivery are available.

The menu on Wednesday, Feb. 17, is mac and cheese, whole wheat roll, tapioca pudding with whipped topping, and orange juice.

## MONTGOMERY

### Local student named to Dean's List

MONTGOMERY — Joseph Coon was named to the Dean's List for Holy Cross for the Fall 2020 semester. Coon, a mathematics major and a member of

the class of 2020, qualified for Dean's List by passing four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

## RUSSELL

# WHOA returns with ice fishing Saturday, Feb. 20

**RUSSELL** — Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures, or WHOA, will be featuring ice fishing as one of its feature events during their monthly opening of the Moses Scout Reservation on Saturday, Feb. 20.

Ice on the reservation's 90-acre lake is forecast to be more than thick enough to support the largest of groups. Heading up the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures' ice fishing staff will be Craig Mannix and his Eagle Scout son Jack. In addition to running the WHOA fishing program, Mannix also heads up the Western Massachusetts Council's Fishing Committee, which offers a variety of Scout fishing programs and events throughout the year. With over 30 years of ice fishing experience Craig, and the rest of his dedicated staff, will be available to show even the most novice fisherman how to catch the big ones under the ice. For those folks without the proper ice fishing equipment, Mannix and his crew will have plenty of "pop-ups" and other tools necessary available for use out on the frozen lake. WHOA Director Mia Santos-Izyk added ice fishing is not the only activity event scheduled for Feb. 20.

"Our guests can have fun making sparks fly in the blacksmith shop, featuring our top-grade instructor and Forged in Fire contestant, Dana Dupuis," she said. "If you've never experienced shaping red hot metal into a useful item, this may be your chance to experience it."

Additionally, there will be snow shoeing and mountain biking (if biking, COVID-19 regulations require guests to bring their own helmet), orienteering, escape challenges and scavenger hunt bingo and more are on the day's agenda. If Mother Nature cooperates with the weather, there is a possibility of trips out to the Top O' The Hill Maple "sugar shack," where visitors are rewarded for their efforts with the Top O' The Hills' hospi-

tality and samples of their sweet, freshly boiled, maple syrup.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions the registration cost for all these activities remains at \$10 per person, regardless of age. The Jan. 16 activities all commence at 9 a.m. and end at 3: p.m. Regarding the COVID-19 regulations, Santos-Izyk advises all participants and WHOA staff that various modifications to the usual WHOA programs are still in place. Participants will be required to pre-register and prepay on-line at; [www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202101](http://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202101). No walk-ins or onsite registrations will be permitted. Additionally, registrations will be limited, and participants may be asked to assemble into groups of 12 or fewer individuals. Typical social distancing will be practiced with mandatory face coverings required at all times whether outside or in enclosed areas. A full list of WHOA's COVID-19 modifications is available on its website at [www.wmascouting.org/WHOA](http://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA).

Each month Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures presents activities taking advantage of the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation's 1300-acre camp, located a few minutes from I-90 Exit 3, at 310 Birch Hill Rd. in Russell, MA. The ever-growing list of activities are open to all. One does not need to be a Boy Scout to take part in a WHOA Saturday. Families, children, teens, adults, clubs, teams, and others may participate. All proceeds benefit various improvement projects and programs at the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation.

More WHOA information may be found at [www.wmascouting.org/WHOA](http://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA); to preregister online visit [www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202101](http://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202101).

As WHOA's director states, "It's wintertime in the hills of the Berkshires so guests are cautioned to be prepared and dress warmly by wearing layers of clothing. Wear what will keep you warm,



The Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures hosts ice fishing at an event in 2020.

Submitted photos



Craig and Jack Mannix will host the ice fishing demonstration on Saturday, Feb. 20.



Dana Dupuis' blacksmith shop always creates a spark with the audience.

expect snow or ice-covered activity areas with terrain being rocky, muddy, snowy, or even icy. Therefore, wearing sneakers will be hazardous. Sturdy footwear will help keep one's feet warmer and provide better

support over uneven terrain. For those who might get chilled, the camp's trading post will be open under a limited guest capacity. WHOA! Rain, snow, or shine it doesn't get any better than this!"

## Library unveils new website

**RUSSELL** — The Russell Public Library is now online! Check out the new website at [russelllibrary.library.site](http://russelllibrary.library.site). Don't forget to bookmark the site for future use.

During the month of friendship, read a book. Check out Caldecott Medal winner "My Friend Rabbit" by Eric Rohmann, "Dear Earth...From Your

Friends in Room 5" by Erin Dealey, or "My Best Friend or Nicolas, where have you been?" by Leo Lionni.

Make a snack for a friend with the all the ingredients for friendship trail mix packaged and ready to go at the library.

Last, but not least, make a craft; love comes in many colors.

## Local student earns academic honor

**RUSSELL** — Madison Cloutier earned a spot on the Dean's List at Sienna College for the Fall 2020 semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student's grade point average for the semester must be between 3.5 and 3.89.

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ONLINE AT: [COUNTRYJOURNAL.TURLEY.COM](http://COUNTRYJOURNAL.TURLEY.COM)

## Vaccine information for town residents available online

**WORTHINGTON** — The town has received many inquiries about getting the Covid-19 Vaccine. The current state guidance can be found on the Massachusetts State Web Site at [www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine).

On Monday, Feb. 1, people age 75 or older are eligible to make appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations. There is no date set yet for the next group — people 65 or older or people with two or more comorbidities. The

vaccines themselves continue in short supply.

At this time, there are two regional COVID vaccination clinics in Hampshire County — The Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst or The Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton.

To register visit a link on the city websites: [www.amherstcovid19.org](http://www.amherstcovid19.org) or [www.northamptonma.gov/vaccineclinics](http://www.northamptonma.gov/vaccineclinics). Additional clinics will be scheduled

during the coming weeks based upon weekly federal and state allotments and will follow the phased guidelines as defined by The Department of Public Health.

They will also be offering the second dose of the Moderna vaccine on or after 28 days later to anyone who receives their first dose at our clinics. If individuals need assistance with online registration, please call 413-587-1219 for Northampton or 413-259-2425 for

Amherst and leave a detailed message. A health department representative will get back to you within two business days.

Please note that the vaccine is free to individuals and is being provided to the states by the federal government. Sites can bill for a small administration fee to cover the cost of running clinic and insurance information will be requested. However, no person will be turned away due to lack of insurance.

## News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows.

**Deadline is Monday at NOON**, on holidays it is **Friday at 2 p.m.**

## Local students earn academic honors

**WORTHINGTON** — Shyanne Labrie was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester at Bridgewater State University.

Samuel Morrison was named to the Dean's List at Sienna College for the Fall 2020 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, a student's grade point average for the semester must be between 3.5 and 3.89.

# WESTHAMPTON

## Information and resources for COVID-19 vaccinations

**WESTHAMPTON** — Information on COVID-19 vaccinations from Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition is provided by Westhampton Board of Health.

The town has several links on the town website, [westhampton-ma.us](http://westhampton-ma.us), to help residents make an appointment for a vaccine, if eligible.

Phase 2 started on Feb. 1. The first priority group of the phase are people 75 and over. For more information on phases, visit [www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine).

Residents can get vaccinated at the Northampton Senior Center. They may also choose to go to the UMass Campus Center. A map is available at [www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations-for-individuals-in-eligible-groups-and-phases](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations-for-individuals-in-eligible-groups-and-phases).

To book an appointment in Northampton, visit [www.northampton-ma.gov/2219/COVID-19-Vaccination-Clinics](http://www.northampton-ma.gov/2219/COVID-19-Vaccination-Clinics).

To book an appointment at UMass, visit [www.umass.edu/coronavirus/vaccine](http://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/vaccine).

For those who do not have computer

capability or need help with booking an appointment, a call connection can be arranged through the Highland Valley Elder Services in Florence. Call 413-585-2000.

When booking an appointment, a Vaccination Attestation form must be filled out. This form may be at the clinic or site, over the phone, or online at [www.mass.gov/forms/covid-19-massachusetts-vaccination-attestation-form](http://www.mass.gov/forms/covid-19-massachusetts-vaccination-attestation-form). A driver's license is not required.

Please keep in mind that vaccine is in short supply and it may take a long time to book an appointment.



## Local students earn academic honors at three colleges

**WESTHAMPTON** — Haley Marek, Nicholas Randolph, and Emma Tobin were named to Dean's List at their respective universities for the Fall 2020 semester.

As a nursing student at Endicott College, Marek qualified for the list by

earning a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester. Haley is the daughter of Jo-Ellen and Walter Marek III.

Randolph was named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Hamilton College. Randolph is a senior economics major and must have carried throughout the semester a course load of four or more graded credits with an average of 3.5 or above to be

named to Dean's List.

Tobin earned her honor at Curry College. To earn a place on the list, full-time undergraduate students must carry 12 or more graded credits per semester and must earn a 3.3 GPA or higher.



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## REGION

# UMass Fine Arts Center announces virtual spring season

AMHERST — This spring the UMass Fine Arts Center takes full advantage of the virtual world to engage and inspire audiences with over 40 online events featuring renowned artists like visual artist Alison Saar and the South African choral icons Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Audiences can witness musicians from around the world perform in the newest configuration of the Silkroad Ensemble and enjoy the return of audience favorites like cellist Matt Haimovitz. "This moment to pivot enabled us to expand our reach, allowing us to bring the wonders of the arts to more communities in our richly diverse region," said Director Jamilla Deria.

In keeping with tradition, the first event of the semester is the annual Fine Arts Center Gala hosted via Zoom on Feb. 6, and sponsored by Greenfield|Northampton Cooperative Bank. With the theme of "Relive-Renew-Reimagine," the virtual version of this beloved and historically sold-out event celebrates and supports the Arts/Access outreach programs of the Fine Arts Center.

The presentation includes a trivia contest and prizes sponsored by Florence Bank and a "mini" silent auction featuring work by Tom Friedman and Laura Radwell. The evening concludes with a virtual dance party to an original set by FEVER, thanks to Finck & Perras Insurance. Registration is required and while the event is free, guests are asked to make a donation at whichever level they are comfortable.

The performing arts season kicks off with Ladysmith Black Mambazo on Feb. 17. The concert recorded in South Africa features the chorus performing the songs of unity and love that have made them globally renowned.

On April 25 as part of the UMass Bach Festival, renowned cellist Matt Haimovitz presents a virtual presentation of his "Bach Listening-Room" repertoire focused on Bach's solo cello suites. To close out the season on April 29, members of the Grammy Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble present highlights from their more than 20-year trajectory recorded from all over the planet.

For families, the Fine Arts Center welcomes the virtual tour premiere of Manual Cinema's "Leonardo & Sam: the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World, Respectively," on April 11. Inspired by the beloved books by Mo Willems, the piece is realized through Manual Cinema's critically acclaimed use of projection, shadow puppetry, and immersive sound to create a live cinematic experience.

The Bodies at Risk series, featuring BIPOC artists in creative dialogue about the racialized body and social justice, continues from the fall. In conjunction with UMass Dance and Five College Dance Department's virtual conference, "Beyond the Proscenium," hip-hop based choreographers Rennie Harris and Jon Boogz talk on March 13, followed by a conversation between indigenous dance artist and company director, Emily Johnson, and choreographer and disability rights activist, Alice Sheppard, on March 18.

The Reimagine Artist Residency series introduced last fall continues to feature groundbreaking artists as they redefine what it means to be socially engaged artists. Performance artist Kristina Wong returns on March 1 to present her virtual piece born from the COVID-19 pandemic, "Sweatshop Overlord." Inspired by her experience forming "Auntie's Sewing Squad," the work grew into a now national

grass roots effort to provide masks and more to communities in need. Multimedia artist Miwa Matreyek will be in residence focused around her climate-based work, "Infinitely Yours," leading workshops and participating in a climate crisis panel in collaboration with the UMass School for Earth & Sustainability and the MFA for Poets and Writers.

Additional programming includes Japanologist Alex Kerr discussing his book "Lost Japan"; jazz performances by the Fay Victor Chamber Trio and Zaccari Curtis Afro-Cuban Quartet; and a Valley Jazz Network performance and conversation event focused on jazz and gender featuring Grammy-award winning drummer Teri Lyne Carrington.

The University Museum of Contemporary Art has three virtual exhibitions this spring. Of special note is "Mirror Mirror: The Prints of Alison Saar" from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his Family Foundation.

For the exhibition "We Are For Freedoms," the Museum commissioned a series of posters from local and regional artists, asking them to visually respond to their interpretation of freedom.

The third exhibition, "Artifacts at the End of a Decade," the Museum's annual Curatorial Fellowship Exhibition, was originally scheduled to debut in March 2020, and features a portfolio of work that has not been on view in its entirety since 1989. Each exhibition will be on view online February through April and features live virtual events with the artists and curators involved in each.

Augusta Savage Gallery continues with its 50th anniversary theme, "Healing Bodies," presenting exhibitions by women from Northampton's Anchor House of Artists, New Mexico-based artist Carolyn

Mae Lassiter, and a posthumous celebration of the work of Brettney Young. Each virtual exhibition launches with an opening reception on Zoom. Additionally, the Gallery hosts artist JuPong Lin's installation, "Poetics of Repair – Being Earth, Being Water," a participatory installation of poetry and paper cranes and canoes, "concocting a medicine of de-colonial love to mend our ravaged world."

Hampden Gallery launches Feb. 1 with a group exhibition "CURRENT UNDERCURRENT" curated by Linda Griggs and M. Charlene Stevens, a visual conversation relating to current events such as COVID-19, gender, racial justice and climate change, featuring over 30 artists. Hampden's spring schedule also features solo exhibitions by artists Bruce Ackerson and Alicia Renadette.

Fine Arts Center venues including the box office, Augusta Savage Gallery, Hampden Gallery and the University Museum of Contemporary Art, remain closed to the public until further notice. Full program details are available at [fineartscenter.com](http://fineartscenter.com). Some events have a nominal access fee per household or device; many are free. For more questions, the box office can be reached by email at [facbox@umass.edu](mailto:facbox@umass.edu) and by phone at 413-545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., hours subject to change.

The UMass Fine Arts Center is supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts through the New England Arts Resilience Fund, part of the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, an initiative of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with major funding from the federal CARES Act from the National Endowment for the Arts.

## GOSHEN

### DATES

*from page 1*

time this year to allow the ability residents to congregate outside. Not only did residents enjoy sitting outside last year, but COVID-19 is still impacting towns and it'd be safer to conduct the events outside and socially distanced.

There are current guidelines and laws concerning the dates of the town events and when they can be held, the board wanted to discuss changing the dates with the town clerk to make sure they're able to actually move these events. In a recent meeting the board discussed the possible date of June 12 for the annual town meeting, as it'd be warm enough to hold it outside but not too late in the fiscal year. The board also discussed holding the town meeting first

and having the caucus and election afterwards, they wanted to discuss this with the town clerk to verify that the events could follow this schedule.

The board also spoke about hiring someone for an assistant treasurer and assistant collector positions; one person would serve both roles. Town Administrator Dawn Scaparotti and Collector Jennifer Day reviewed resumes and interviews people for the position and made a recommendation along with Town clerk Kristen Bissell to the board. The board then unanimously approved the recommendation and hired Amy Wickland the assistant treasurer and collector with a 90-day provisional period.

The board discussed awarding a

bid for the East Street Transportation Improvement Project, which will include a bike and pedestrian lane in town. At a meeting on Dec. 4, the board opened sealed bids for the project, with six bidders in total and the three lowest bidders being submitted to the state for pre-qualification review and approval before the town accepts a bid. After a pre-qualification and review the board is thinking of awarding the project to Euroavia as the lowest bidder.

Selectman Wayne Glaser, who oversees the information and technology for the town, provided an update on town cyber security. He discussed growing concerns about the cyber security with the board, noting there will need to be

stronger security controls implemented to protect the integrity of the municipal system from well-organized and professional hacking organizations, stating that these organizations seem to be targeting medium and smaller towns and organizations.

The board discussed the Open Space Plan that was submitted to the state. They recently requested further information and members from the Open Space Committee feel that they can't complete the request without technical assistance. In order to help the Open Space Committee, the board requested a Direct Local technical Assistance grant from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and will be discussing the feasibility of being awarded a grant with PVPC.

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The thumbnail image shows the front page of the Country Journal. At the top, it features a quote: "Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go. They merely determine where you start." - Nilo Qabein. Below the quote is the masthead "Country Journal" and the tagline "Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns". It includes a map of the Hilltowns region and the text "A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com" and "www.countryjournal.turley.com". The main headline is "Collectors work on tax bill solution". Other visible sections include "Lake Life" with a photo of Littleville Lake, "WORTHINGTON Power, school on new year plans", "BLANDFORD Looking ahead to new year in town", and "GOSHEN Broadband, study on tap for 2021". There are also columns for "TAX", "Marijuana business gathers public comment", and "BROADBAND". A red starburst graphic in the top right corner encourages readers to "Get the Country Journal mailed directly to your home".

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# OBITUARIES

## Joseph Alexander Allen, 31

Joseph Alexander Allen, 31, of Chester, MA, passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 27, 2020. Joseph grew up in the hilltowns and anyone who knew him knows he loved sports. He especially loved the New England Patriots and the Boston Bruins.

Joseph was a champion BMX racer in his younger years, earned his GED, and loved his last job as a recovery specialist for Gandara Recovery Services.

Joseph leaves behind, to cherish his memory, his mother Rebecca Allen of Chester, his sister Kristine Allen of Chester, his grandmother Geraldine Talbot of Chicopee, uncle Matthew Talbot



and his wife Heather and their three children Thomas, Laura, and Daniel of Westfield, and good friend and mentor Ed Pelis of Hatfield. Joe also leaves behind his partner of four years Heather Fairley of Westfield and their dog Casey.

Joseph will be immeasurably missed by all of his family and friends. No words can describe the sorrow and grief of his loss and untimely departure from this world.

A memorial service will be held for Joseph at a future date at the convenience and invitation of his family.

## Richard K. Smith, 83

Richard K. Smith, 83, of New Milford passed away peacefully on Jan. 31, 2021.

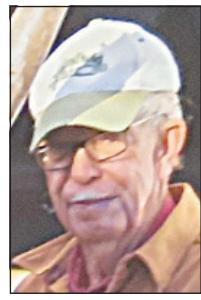
Despite a challenging year of illness, he continued to fill every space with conversation and laughter. He recently met his first great-grandchild, who in turn was fascinated with his Grand Pop's goofy faces, endless stories, and shoelaces.

After marrying his dedicated spouse of 61 years, Jean E. Smith, and with three children in tow, Richard moved from a small city home in Danbury to a sprawling farm in New Milford. He continued his career with the city of Danbury until retirement, eventually becoming superintendent of the Forestry Division, where he enjoyed working with his hands and helping others appreciate and preserve the natural beauty of the town's greenery.

He was a lifetime member of the Connecticut Ox Owners Association, past member of the New England Ox Owners Association, and former member of the Danbury Elks.

While adding to his commute, Richard's move to the farm afforded him the ability to fully engage in his lifelong passion for raising oxen, a hobby passed on by his father. In training more than 60 teams of cattle, he participated in pulling events throughout the Eastern Seaboard, using his later years to educate new generations about the historic role oxen played in the country's development.

He thrived in telling jokes to packed arenas while expertly peppering them with facts about animal husbandry and the audiences would applaud enthusiastically when they saw him hug his 2,000-pound pets and lead them around the ring with just a quick word. He imparted his legacy of working with animals to his



children and grandchildren, many of whom carry on the pulling tradition.

Richard enjoyed annual monthlong trips to the beaches of New Smyrna, Florida with his wife. He cherished the decades-long friendships he cultivated there with people from around the county and delighted in watching dolphins play in the tolling waves of the Atlantic.

He also enjoyed stock car racing and was an avid supporter of both his grandson and son-in-law's competitions at various speedways in the region.

Richard was always available to lend a hand to family and friends, be it splitting firewood, mending a fence, or helping with grandchildren. All he would ask for in return was easy companionship, a smile, and maybe a trip to the local Italian restaurant.

Richard is survived by his wife Jean Smith (New Milford); his three children Glenn Smith (Chesterfield, MA) and his wife Jo; Tammy Deak (New Milford) and her husband Bill; and Rick Smith Jr. (Bethlehem) and his wife Tami; his grandchildren, Billy Deak Jr. (New Milford) and his girlfriend Danielle; Kristina Deak (Wesley Chapel, FL) and her husband Trent; Travis Smith and Ricki-Lynne (Bethlehem); and his great-grandson Connor Deak Tweddle (Wesley Chapel, FL).

A private memorial service will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the New Milford Ambulance or to Connecticut Chapter Alzheimer's Association ([alz.org/ct](http://alz.org/)).

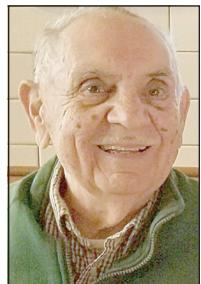
Arrangements by the Lillis Funeral Home, 58 Bridge St., New Milford.

## Joseph Martin Cangro, 88

Joseph Martin Cangro, 88, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021 at Baystate Medical Center. He was born Nov. 11, 1932 at home in East Longmeadow, MA to the late Louis A Cangro and Josephine (Mercieri) Cangro.

Joe was a long-time resident of East Longmeadow and attended Pleasant View Elementary School. He graduated from Springfield Trade High School, class of 1950. He earned an Industrial Engineering Degree from WNEC in 1967. He also received an MBA degree from WNEC in 1970 and an Educational Doctorate Degree from UMass in 1972.

Joe was employed by Package Machine Company in East Longmeadow for 13 years from 1950 to 1963. He then changed careers to become a schoolteacher in math, science, and industrial arts to grades 7-12 in East Longmeadow public schools from 1964 until 1972. In that year, he became employed by the Commonwealth



of Massachusetts Department of Education. Joe started as an education specialist, then became a team leader in charge of occupational education programs throughout the Western Mass. area.

Joe leaves his loving wife of 30 years Marilyn (Bingham) Cangro of Huntington and East Longmeadow; his sister Mildred D'Amato; and his nephews Matthew D'Amato of East Longmeadow and Richard D'Amato and his wife Margaret of Greenville, RI; his brother Felix Cangro and his wife Felicia of East Longmeadow; his stepdaughter Tracey (Sarafin) Jacey and her husband Paul Jacey of Noank, CT; his three grandsons Adam, Calvin and Weston Jacey, and many nieces, nephews and extended family. In addition to his parents, Joe was predeceased by his two brothers Michelangelo and Louis Cangro Jr.; his three sisters Etta Cangro, Joyce (Cangro) Hall and Rose (Cangro) Petruzzello; and a stepson Christopher

## D. Sarafin.

Joe was a member of St. Michael's Parish in East Longmeadow and the Holy Family Parish in Russell, MA. Joe was a member of the East Longmeadow Planning Board for many years. He loved watching the Yankees and Playing Golf with his brother and stepson. He enjoyed family dinners, especially during the holidays, and he cherished the many visits to Cape Cod with his wife Marilyn.

A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be held at St. Michael's Parish, 128 Maple St., East Longmeadow on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 10:30 a.m. Services are entrusted to Forastiere Smith Funeral & Cremation and, per Joe's wishes, there will be no calling hours and a private burial.

Joe's family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Baystate Medical Center for all their kind and loving care they showed Joe during his stay with them. To leave a message of personal condolence or for more information, visit [www.forastiere.com](http://www.forastiere.com).

## DEATH NOTICES

### ALLEN, JOSEPH ALEXANDER

Died Nov. 27, 2020  
Services to be held at later date.

### CANGRO, JOSEPH MARTIN

Died Feb. 2, 2021  
Liturgy of Christian Burial Feb. 10  
St. Michael's Parish, East Longmeadow

### MILLER P. JOSEPH

Died Dec. 29, 2020

### SMITH, RICHARD K.

Died Jan. 31, 2021  
Services are Private

*Country Journal*

## OBITUARY POLICY

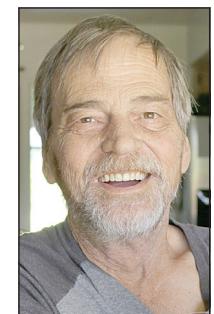
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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## Joseph P. Miller



Joseph P. Miller, born on July 15, 1951, died on Dec. 29, 2020 of a myocardial infarction. He was married to Beth Miller for 25 years and is survived by William Miller (son), Jessica Miller (daughter), and grandchildren Jezmarie and Julianalee Cruz.

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## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

# Bookworms tackle 15,000 minutes in READBowl

Mrs. Bak's Third Grade students at Littleville Elementary School participated in Share the Magic Foundation's READBowl, a global reading competition for pre-K through eighth grade students, designed to inspire them to read and provide teachers with a platform to motivate students to increase reading minutes.

Founded by Super Bowl Champion and children's book author Malcolm Mitchell, Share the Magic Foundation provides in school and free virtual programming to students across the country.

Mrs. Bak's Bookworms, the chosen team name, joined students from across the country and around the world to compete in READBowl, the World Championship of Reading, that began

on Monday January 11, 2021, the day of the NCAA College Football National Championship. The students competed for four quarters (weeks) of reading ending on Feb. 7. Mitchell announced the World Champions on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021.

The class read over 15,000 minutes during the four-week challenge. Over 70,000 students participated in the reading challenge with classrooms from all 50 states. A total of 60 million minutes of reading were recorded during the challenge. Mrs. Bak's class came in eighth place two weeks in a row, and first place in the final week. Although they did not win the Big Three Conference, students were quite proud of their victory.

## FAILURE

The 18% failure rate in Quarter 1 was about six times higher than past year's as the adjusted school models due to COVID-19 continue to impact the student learning experience.

"This was a bit disappointing. We had hoped more students would take advantage of the opportunity," Smidy said.

Credit recovery was an attempt for the students to be able to show competency in the mastery targets for a course. Improving the grade to a 60 allows them to pass and manage a smaller workload in the remote and hybrid learning environments.

There were 62 students signed up for 90 recovery courses over the holiday break. Out of the 27 completed recoveries, there were 25 different students completing at least one. There were 37

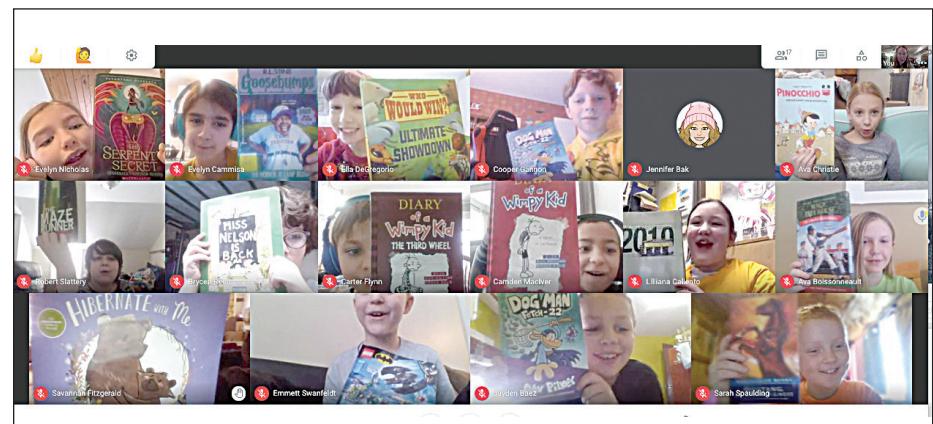
students who signed up, but did not turn in any work.

"Teachers assign them the bare minimum to show they met the mastery targets for that quarter to move on and get a passing grade," Smidy said. "It might be hard for students to be motivated since they can only earn a 60, but it is a chance to pass for the whole year."

One issue administration has identified with the credit recovery model is that students failing multiple courses struggled to try and juggle credit recovery work for multiple classes at once.

"It seemed the trend is the students were able to make up the work for one, but not both classes if they attempted that," Smidy said. "We will reflect on the data and see what other intervention opportunities the school can offer."

"Do we have a concern of seniors



Third graders in Ms. Bak's class at Littleville Elementary School read more than 15,000 as part of the READBowl this year.

*Submitted photo*

*from page 1*

not going to be able to graduate?" asked Tammy Walunas, one of the committee representatives from Southampton.

Smidy said currently there are a couple seniors at risk. She acknowledged there's a higher amount of anxiety and depression affecting class attendance rates among the student body, but the school wants to find alternatives to automatically passing everyone and ensure, for seniors, graduation requirements are being met.

"We want to make sure they're meeting the graduation requirements of Hampshire. It may be that we're doing something more creative to get them there," she said. "Some high schools have decided they aren't going to issue formal grades. There are also some area schools that don't allow a student to earn less than a 60 even if they don't turn

in any work. Frankly, no one has come up with anything that's inspiring. We're continuously on the hunt for what makes sense for us. We can have nobody fail on the books, but I don't think that really meets our goal of student assessment."

The school has also updated its attendance reporting for Quarter 3. Previously, students were marked absent if more than five minutes late to a class. However, administration doesn't feel five minutes provides enough flexibility for students or reflect on their actual time on learning given extended class times.

Students will now be marked absent if they miss more than 10 minutes of a single class period. Missing less than 10 will be marked as late. Students who are marked absent or tardy for two classes in a single day will be marked absent for the whole day.

## WILLIAMSBURG

# COVID-19 vaccination information online, at Board of Health

**WILLIAMSBURG** — The State of Massachusetts is rolling out the COVID-19 vaccinations in three phases. Each phase has eligibility requirements with groups to be vaccinated in priority order. Currently the state is in Phase 1 and is vaccinating clinical and non-clinical healthcare workers, people in long-term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities, emergency responders, congregate care settings and health care workers.

## SCHOOL

way becomes extremely expensive to the town... unfortunately we don't see the financial base of the town being able to support that."

Public feedback last year was strongly in favor of keeping the school building up. However, there were some residents who felt they could support removing the building if the town did its due diligence to prove it was the only viable way to get the Police and Fire Departments a new home.

"I attended that school. I graduated 1963. I was one of the ones that went to the committee and asked them to do more research...to get the real information on that building, if it could be saved, what the potential cost could be," said Jim Moran, resident and owner of MJ Moran Inc. "When I saw the report and the cost, it just isn't feasible for the town in my opinion to save it when we need a safety complex so bad for our people... its deplorable conditions what they're working in for now. I used to be a member of the Fire Department, so I know what they're going through."

"We feel we now have that data and so there's a number of people in town who initially took that position who are now coming around to saying I don't like

Phase 2 is scheduled to begin sometime in February and will cover vaccinations for people with two or more health conditions that make them high risk for COVID-19 complications, adults 75 years or older, residents and staff of public and private low income and affordable senior housing, educators, employees who work in retail, foodservice facilities, public works, and transportation, adults 65 years or older, and individuals with one health condition that puts them at

high risk.

Phase 3 covers the general public — those not covered in phase 1 or 2 — and is scheduled to begin in April.

At this time, the town is working with state approved regional vaccination sites. As vaccination enters Phase 2 and Phase 3, town officials will communicate with residents eligible under that phase about how best to sign up to get vaccinated. Residents should not sign-up until the state is in the phase under which they are

eligible. Residents will be turned away even if they sign up.

Please beware of scam emails, links, and websites regarding vaccinations. For more information, visit [www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine).

In the meantime, please take care, wear a mask, and maintain social distance. Questions may be directed to Board of Health Chair Donna Gibson at 413-268-7421.

*from page 1*

this, but I don't see another way of doing it," Ayres said.

Architect Juster Pope Frazier LLC was hired to do the initial design phase and crafted three different scenarios following a comprehensive engineering overview of the HEJ building including its structural integrity, architectural conditions and capacity of existing mechanical and electrical systems. Ayres said the architect was chosen because of their experience in reusing older buildings in other communities, and hoped the study would reveal a feasible scenario to retain the HEJ building.

Option 1 considered the possibility of partially renovating the HEJ building for public safety use and build a separate vehicle bay for the Fire Department on the property. The benefits of reusing the 106-year-old icon were offset by the \$2.1 million of current building code standard improvements the building needs to be used for any purpose. The vehicle bays would be in the lowest elevation area on the property with a high ground water table within the 500-year flood plain, which would require large amounts of fill to raise it above the water table. That would create a large amount of impermeable surfaces, and the building layout

itself is not easily converted for public safety functions and operations. The total cost was estimated at \$7.5 million.

Option 2 looked at preserving the HEJ building while building a separate public safety complex. This would give public safety departments a modern building designed to fit their needs and preserve the school. However, the HEJ building carries the \$2.1 million in building code improvements, and an additional \$40,000 in annual maintenance for a currently unused building. The total cost for the project was estimated at \$6.7 million.

"A lot of people in the town really like the idea of using HEJ for public safety functions; that type of integrated model by far ended up being the most expensive of the three," Ayres said. "The standalone model ended up being expensive as well in part because there would be a lot of environmental mitigation that would be needed due to placing two buildings on the property and the paving that comes with that."

These conclusions brought the committee to the most difficult of the three scenarios — removing the HEJ building entirely and rebuilding the new PSC in its place. It's the option the study con-

cluded is the most financially feasible, builds the complex in the highest elevation on the property, and provides the greatest opportunities for community open space. The price tag is an estimated \$5.1 million.

"Part of the reason that works really well is the school site is the highest part of the property and it also would allow us to have less impermeable surfaces by having the building there and using much of the existing pavement layout," Ayres said.

"It makes me sick to my stomach," said Moran. "I'm going to hate to see it go, but we've got to face reality."

The town will get to voice their opinion and vote on the three options at a special town meeting on April 3. Later this month, the committee will be scheduling Zoom meetings to educate residents on the three options, answer any questions, and gather feedback.

There will also be newsletter mailings with information and the committee hopes an aggressive campaign to engage and inform the community will limit the amount of time people will have to be present at the STM to vote. For more information, visit the OPMSC page on the town website, [burg.org](http://burg.org).



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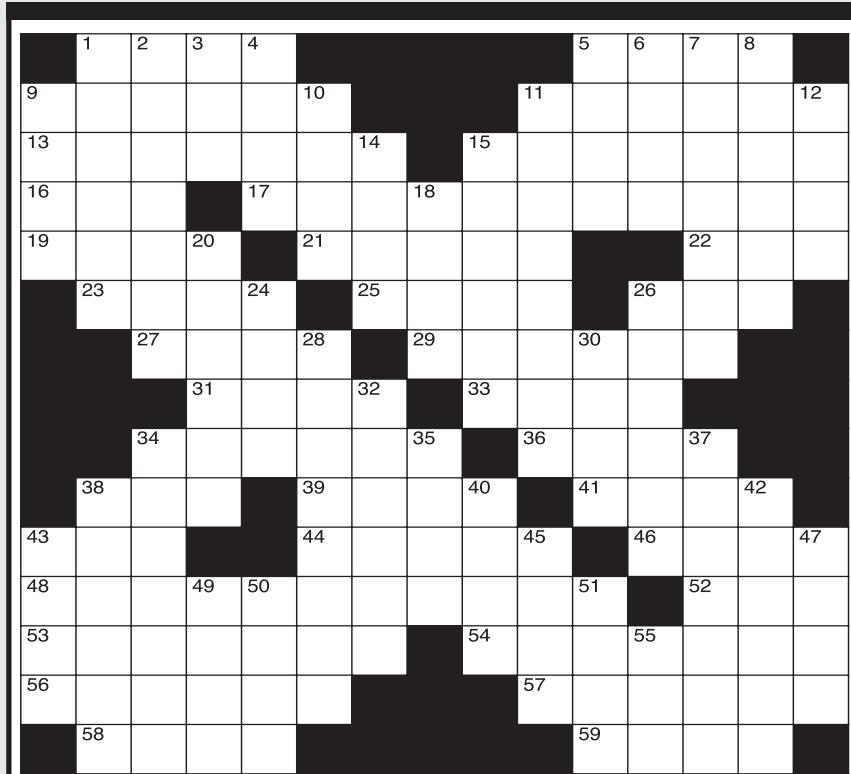
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### CLUES ACROSS

- Composed
- Lesotho currency
- Ethnic group associated with Hungarians
- Gains knowledge of
- Gradual destruction
- Purchase
- Pharaoh of lower Egypt
- Where you're going
- The 6th letter of the Greek alphabet
- Fishing net
- Midway between south and southeast
- A way to sort
- C C C
- Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
- Discount
- Consumes tobacco
- A way to run

- Popular musical awards show
- Pertains to the male sexual organ
- Supplements with difficulty
- Green veggie
- Deep-bodied freshwater fish
- Holy fire
- Usually has a lid
- Being of use or service
- Have a yen for
- Unknowingness
- Dry white wine drink
- Unwinds
- Traveling by sea
- Outdoor entertaining areas
- Stringed instruments
- Redgrave, actress

### CLUES DOWN

- Progressive decay of a bone or tooth
- Burrowing rodents
- French/Belgian river
- A professional cleaner
- Russian river
- Kiln
- True statements
- Most private
- French city
- Masses of fish eggs
- Apart from others
- Monetary unit of Samoa
- Nanosecond
- Film
- Men's fashion accessories
- Flowering shrub
- North Carolina university

- Moves earth
- Former monetary unit of Spain
- Foodies
- New Zealand parrot
- Makes very happy
- A payment required for not fulfilling a contract
- Emerald Isle
- A Russian river
- The act of terminating someone's employment
- Gland in some mammals
- Commoner
- Large animals
- Belch
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Work units
- Wagon
- Nerve fiber
- Proclaimed
- Japanese delicacy

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

### ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

An open discussion with a loved one yields positive results. Take what is said to heart and work on strengthening this relationship even further going forward.

### CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, some time alone may be necessary to figure out a problem. Once you can get free of distractions, the solution will present itself rather quickly.

### LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, a change of scenery can be just what you need. A day trip to enjoy the great outdoors can prove refreshing and provide some new perspective.

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

It is alright if it seems like you're a beat behind everyone else this week, Capricorn. You will catch up soon enough and others are more than capable of picking up the slack.

### AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

An attraction to someone you meet this week catches you off guard, Aquarius. Forge ahead and explore these feelings if your situation allows.

### PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Offer support to a friend in need, Pisces. This generous offer will be much-appreciated and you will reap the rewards as well.

### TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Reassess your finances before making a big financial commitment. Start adding things up and comparing expenses to income before signing on any dotted lines.

### LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, now is the time to begin planning an important project. Your mind is clear and you have the time, so embrace your creative side as you begin to hash things out.

### SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, a new person in your life proves invigorating. Foster this relationship and be grateful for the opportunity to invite a new person into your life.

### SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, a new hobby piques your interest. Introduce others to this activity and enjoy pursuing this newfound passion with someone you care about.

### GEMINI

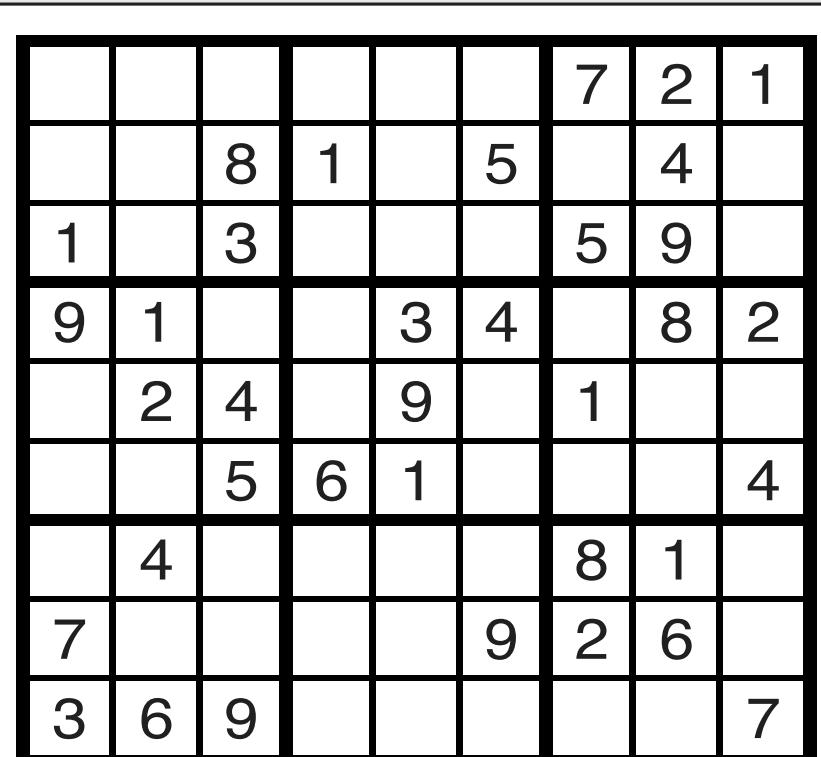
May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, some time off spent entirely with family and friends is just what the doctor ordered. Cherish this time and appreciate the opportunity to enjoy it with those you love.

### VIRGO

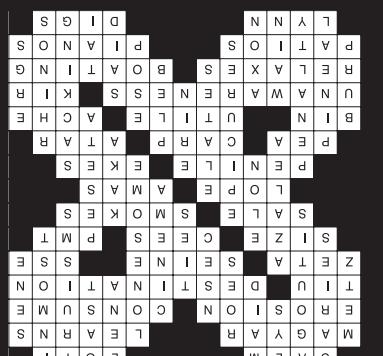
Aug 24/Sept 22

Spiritual endeavors may take up much of your time this week, Virgo. Surround yourself with other spiritual people or examine your faith more deeply on your own.



**Answers**

4	5	6	9	8	3	7	2	1
1	7	5	3	2	4	6	5	9
9	1	8	1	7	5	3	4	6
2	9	8	1	6	5	3	4	7
7	3	2	4	6	5	9	8	2
4	5	6	9	8	3	7	2	1
1	7	5	3	2	4	6	8	2
9	1	8	1	7	5	3	4	6
2	9	8	1	6	5	3	4	7



## SUDOKU

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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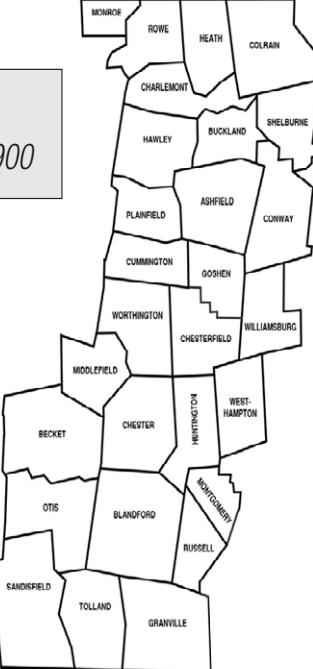
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5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	Base Price \$9.50
21	Base Price \$10.00	22	Base Price \$10.50	23
25	Base Price \$12.00	26	Base Price \$12.50	27
29	Base Price \$14.00	30	Base Price \$14.50	31
33	Base Price \$16.00	34	Base Price \$16.50	35
37	Base Price \$18.00	38	Base Price \$18.50	39
				Base Price \$19.00
				Base Price \$19.50
				Base Price \$17.00
				Base Price \$17.50
				Base Price \$15.00
				Base Price \$13.50
				Base Price \$15.50
				Base Price \$16.50
				Base Price \$17.00
				Base Price \$17.50
				Base Price \$18.00
				Base Price \$18.50

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
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 Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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## FOR RENT

### FOR RENT

### FOR RENT

With Valentine's Day coming up this Sunday, my thoughts turn to flowers and chocolate. Flowers because I am who I am, and chocolate, because I am surely hoping hubby will provide ample quantities in a heart-shaped box! Anyway, back to the flowers..

Many folks will be graced with a bouquet of cut flowers in honor of this special holiday, and I have some tips up my sleeve to make sure you get longevity out of your gift. No matter how your flowers make it home, either in a sleeve or in a box, chances are they've been out of water for some time. Once stems start to seal up, water and nutrients won't be able to flow and their lifespan could be cut short. Therefore, the first thing you ought to do is recut them. Your goal is to have a clean cut, one that won't crush the flower's vascular system.

In fact, I've never understood advice that mentions smashing floral stems; don't do it! Use bypass clippers, or if you're comfortable, a sharp knife. Household scissors usually aren't sharp enough, since they are geared more for cutting paper or fabric. Most advice books recommend making your cut on a 45 degree angle to expose the most surface area possible to water. Another trick is to cut the flower stems under water—this process will prevent air bubbles from clogging the stems. I usually fill a clean sink or bucket, submerge the flower stems and cut 1 or 2" off the bottom. If you've ever had a rose with a bent head, that is an air bubble at work. Try re-cutting the stem under water and hopefully the bubble will be forced out.



ROBERTA MCQUAID  
TURLEY  
PUBLICATIONS  
COLUMNIST

As you move your flowers into a vase (make sure it's clean!), remove any leaves that you estimate will be under the water line. Waterlogged leaves will rot and make bacteria that can clog stems, shorten vase life and make quite a stench! Some flowers do better if most of their foliage

is removed, the reason being that the leaves draw water away from the main stem, and therefore away from the flower head. I generally snip off all the leaves of lilac, and remove all but the uppermost leaves of hydrangeas and zinnias. Usually a small packet of floral preservative is included along with your flowers. Using this in your vase of water will feed the blooms and encourage them to open to their fullest, vivid-color potential!

This year, Valentine's Day coincides with the start of February vacation. Why not snip some branches of your favorite spring shrubs for a neat experiment with the kids? Just think, when the bought flowers are long gone, you'll have some others waiting in the wings. The most common shrub to force in the vase is the forsythia; it can be done as early as late January or February, and right up until regular, outdoor bloom time.

Cut the branches on a day that temperatures are above freezing. The best for forcing are those that have many swollen buds. Bring them indoors and recut the stems just as you did for your cut flowers: under water and with a diagonal cut. The branches can then be put in a container or vase with a few inches of water in it.

I usually steer away from using floral preservative on flow-

ering shrubs. Any side branches or buds that fall below the water line should be removed. Change the water every few days to prevent bacteria growth. If kept in a warm room, buds should break within a few weeks. Many other of our favorite spring-blooming trees and shrubs can also be forced into bloom. Try the same approach with redbud, honeysuckle, crabapple, magnolia and flowering almond, cherry and plum.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### REGULAR SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION LEGAL AD BIDS REGULAR SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION LEGAL AD

Bids are being solicited for the following Districts for "regular school bus transportation:"

**Worthington School District**  
Specifications may be secured by contacting the Office of the Superintendent of Worthington Public School District.

Bids will be received at the Worthington School District's Superintendent's Office, 19 Stage Road, Westhampton, MA 01027 until **March 4, 2021 at 1:00 pm** to be publicly opened and read at that time. No bid will be accepted after 1:00 pm on March 4, 2021.

**There will be a Pre-Bid Conference at the Worthington School District's Superintendent's**

**Office, 19 Stage Road, Westhampton, MA 01027 on February 25, 2021 at 1:00 pm.**

Bids shall be filed in a sealed envelope bearing the title "**BID - REGULAR SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION**", per specifications, delivered personally or by mail to the Worthington School District's Superintendent's Office, 19 Stage Road, Westhampton, MA 01027 **on or before 1:00 pm on March 4, 2021.** Questions may be referred to the following:

Denise Cashin (413) 437-5572 FAX (413) 529-9497

The awarding authority is Worthington Public School, School Committee whom reserves the right to make no award, to reject any or all bids, to call for rebids if necessary, and to waive any informality in the bidding procedure.

02/11/2021

### TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD INVITATION TO BID LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES

The Town of Chesterfield is seeking bids for lawn care and seasonal maintenance of Chesterfield cemeteries and Town building grounds for 2021, 2022, and 2023. A complete bid package with specifications is available by contacting: Chesterfield Town Administrator at town-admin@townofchesterfieldma.com or calling 413-296-4771. You may also view the package on the town website www.townofchesterfieldma.com.

**Bids are due by 1:00 p.m. Thursday, February 25, 2021**, delivered by mail or in the drop box attached to the back of the Chesterfield Town Offices, PO Box 299, 422 Main Rd, Chesterfield,

MA 01012. The Select Board is the awarding authority and reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to make an award consistent with the law and deemed in the best interest of the Town.

02/11/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD21P0129EA  
Estate of:  
Richard Edward Marsh, Sr.  
Date of Death: 08/28/2020  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal  
Adjudication of Intestacy and  
Appointment of Personal  
Representative has been filed by**

**Pamela B Marsh** of Chester, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Pamela B Marsh of Chester, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/01/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of

the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS**, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 26, 2021  
Rosemary A Saccomani  
Register of Probate

02/11/2021

## WE'VE EXPANDED OUR WEB SITE PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

## PLAINFIELD

# Woman killed in snowmobile crash in Dubuque State Forest

PLAINFIELD — A 56-year-old woman died from injuries suffered in a snowmobile accident in the 8,000-acre Dubuque State Forest in Plainfield on Saturday, Feb. 6.

The accident took place on North Central Street over a mile into the forest in an area called "Hell's Kitchen." The road is a groomed snowmobile trail

during winter months only accessible by tracked vehicles. Plainfield Fire/EMS, Plainfield Police and Highland Ambulance responded to the incident a little before 6 p.m. last Saturday night. The accident site had no cell phone reception which led to a long time before EMT's and first responders could get to the actual scene. Cummington

Fire was requested mutual aid for their four-wheel-drive tracked UTV to assist with transport out of the forest. The snowmobiler was packaged and transported on the UTV to Highland Ambulance and transported to the hospital where she was pronounced dead. Ashfield Fire was called mutual aid to assist with a landing zone on Central

Street, which was cancelled by paramedics on the scene.

Massachusetts State Police and Environmental Police were called in to reconstruct the accident scene. No foul play is suspected, and the cause of crash remains under investigation according to the Northwestern district attorney's office in Northampton.

# We are OPEN!



## Restaurant Special

We would like to offer our local restaurants a special to advertise and let your patrons know you are open for business.

TAKEOUT OR DINE-IN!

**\$9900**  
per week\*/per paper

3 X 8 Black & White Ad

dimensions 4.75" w X 8" h

\*Ad must run for 4 weeks between  
Jan. 27, 2021 thru March 26, 2021

Advertisement will also include **FREE**  
Restaurant Listing in all 12 weekly papers in  
our Open For Business Directory that will run  
**EVERY** week until March 26, 2021.

**Call Your Advertising Representative TODAY**  
**DON'T MISS OUT!**



**ABC Pizza**

Open for Takeout/Dine-In  
100 Main Street  
Hours

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Open for Takeout Only  
200 Main Street  
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413-123-4567

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